GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1108
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
LAW AGAINST FEMALE FOETICIDE
Murmu Shri Rupchand

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had organized a meeting to discuss a law against female foeticide;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Women Members of Parliament present in that meeting; and

(d) the outcome of the meeting?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b): The 14th meeting of the Central Supervisory Board (CSB) constituted under the PC&PNDT Act, 1994 was held on 14th June, 2006 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. The meeting was attended by seven Members of Parliament. The Central Supervisory Board (CSB) is a body constituted to advise the Central Government on policy matters relating to use of Preâ€"Natal Diagnostic Techniques. It was decided that CSB would play a pro-active role in the implementation of the Act. District Appropriatiate Authority would be strengthened by inclusion of NGO's. The States be directed to take immediate action on the string operations done by various TV channels. The need to change Code of Ethics of Medical Council of India was expressed. It was desired to hold meeting of Members of Parliament with the State Government and to make the issue of female foeticide as a part of political agenda. It has been decided to make the sensitization on the issue as a part of school curriculum and have more number of years free education for girls than boys. Priority was decided to be given to worst areas like Punjab and Haryana and it was resolved to actively involve professional medical organizations in the matter. It was expressed that all concerned women organizations should join together to tackle the issue. The punishment should be extended to family members and pregnant woman and not only to the doctor.

(c) & (d): In this special meeting of the Central Supervisory Board,(CSB) Hon'ble Members of Parliament from Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Rajsthan, Gujarat and all women Members of Parliament were invited as special guests to gather their views and suggestions on the very important issue of female foeticide as well as implementation of the PC&PNDT Act. Mrs. Renuka Chowdury, Hon'ble Minister of State (Women & Child Development) attended as Co-chairperson of the CSB. Ms. Brinda Karat, Member of Parliament (RS) also attended the meeting.